

ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

Vol. I. No. 6. London : DECEMBER, 1913. Price 6d.

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All communications affecting this periodical should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, The Armenian United Association of London, 32, Richmond Gardens, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

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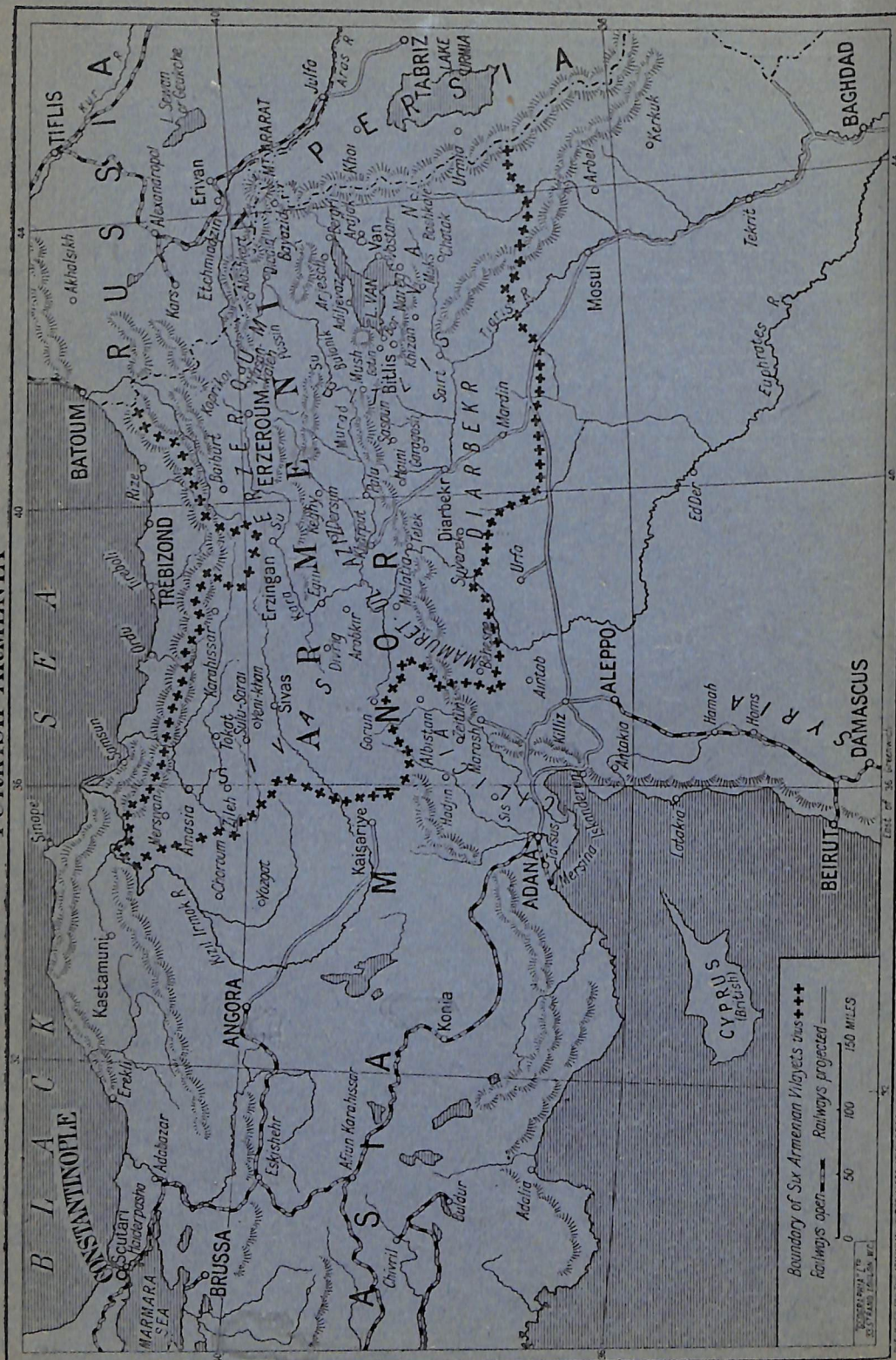
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TURKISH ARMENIA



While the new Patriarch was on his tour through the Armenian vilayets, he was well received by both Turks and Kurds, the latter even exhibiting a grim sense of humour by setting fire to some Armenian villages, which they explained later as a rough and ready method of illumination in honour of the newly-elected Patriarch.

Still more serious is the present attitude of a section of the Turkish Press, headed by the *Tasfir Ejkiar*, which advocates a policy of massacre, should the Armenians insist on European control. Anonymous letters of a threatening character have been received by the Patriarch, and also in the offices of the Armenian paper, *Azatomart*. And it is becoming common again for Armenians to wake up and find on their doors in the morning the ominous daubs of the Turks, indicating that the inmates are marked out as victims for massacre. Perhaps, after all, it is for massacres that the Powers are waiting before action is taken!

Ekdam, a Turkish paper of Constantinople, disputes Mr. Noel Buxton's account of his visit to a Kurdish chief, on the ground that if he went disguised as a Mohammedan, he was guilty of an offence against honesty; if on the other hand he appeared as a European, it is not likely that the chief made the communication he is represented to have done. In either case Mr. Buxton had no knowledge of Turkish or Kurdish to carry on such a conversation. Surely the *Ekdam* omits a further alternative, the presence of an interpreter, which would make the interview quite possible—and we are in a position to state that a friend with a knowledge of both languages was actually present.

We congratulate our contemporary, *Pro Armenia*, on its reappearance in Paris under its old title, in place of *Pour les Peuples d'Orient*. It has done great service in the past by its advocacy of reforms in Turkey and Armenia, and we have no doubt that under the able direction of such men as Francis de Pressensé and Victor Bérard it will continue its just and humanitarian policy.

It is with the deepest sorrow that we refer to the death of Mr. H. F. B. Lynch, who, besides his Persian interests, was one of the staunchest and most influential friends of Armenia in this country. His book on Armenia, published some twelve years ago, is considered a classic;

and the matured views expressed therein on the various phases of the "Armenian Question" retain their freshness for present day application. The sorrow of the entire nation has been reflected in the telegram sent by His Holiness the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, conveying his deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Lynch. We give in this issue a portrait of Mr. Lynch, as well as a fuller account of his life and activities.

Death has been busy in other directions as well, among those having the interests of Armenia at heart. Towards the end of October there passed away suddenly in the streets of Constantinople Simon Zavarian, the most popular and active chief of the "Daschnak" Party. Revolution has given a new birth to many a nation, and Zavarian, declaring himself at first a cosmopolitan, was soon converted into an ardent Armenian patriot by the agonising condition of his own fellow countrymen. There is no doubt that Zavarian and his band of ardent spirits have carried on for the past twenty-four years an unequal and often despairing struggle against the murderous influences which have threatened the little Armenian nation. Wherever national rights were in jeopardy there Zavarian was to be found in the forefront, undergoing incredible perils, and sacrificing in the cause his ablest followers. In Turkey it was the Hamidian phalanx; in the Caucasus, the Russifying policy of Galitzin; in 1895, the formidable Tartar determination to annihilate the Armenian element; then again in Persia, the despotic incubus of the old Shah; wherever such dire attempts existed against Armenians, Zavarian was ready to meet them with his revolutionary band. He has died without witnessing the realisation of his dream of a regenerated Armenia. Constantinople has given him a worthy memorial service, and Tiflis a great funeral. His memory will remain as that of a great apostolic figure.

A further loss to the Armenian world is that of M. Kalantar, editor of *Mshak* at Tiflis, who was well known both as a writer and an editor, taking a deep interest in land questions, and more particularly in methods of farming and agriculture. As an expert in such matters his connection with many agricultural societies was much appreciated. He also took a prominent part in public life. His death was as dramatic in its suddenness as that of Zavarian, Kalantar falling dead during a memorial service at the grave of Raffi, when he was on the point of delivering an eulogy in honour of the dead patriot.

Armenian Reforms.—A Memorial.

Through the courtesy of the British Armenia Committee we are enabled to publish the following :—

The deputation of the British Armenia Committee, consisting of Mr. Aneurin Williams (Chairman), Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., Mr. J. A. Baker, M.P., Canon Robinson, and Mr. Arthur G. Symonds (Secretary), was received by Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office on Nov. 26th, and presented to him the following Memorial :—

The Memorial of the British Armenia Committee to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

SHOWETH,

That information has recently reached your Memorialists from reliable quarters to the effect that an agreement has been arrived at among the representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople, upon a scheme of reforms for the six Vilayets of Armenia. That your Memorialists hope and believe that this Report is true, and rejoice that a scheme of reforms closely resembling those which they have so long advocated is thus found to have the approval of His Majesty's Government and of the Great Powers.

Your Memorialists desire, however, to impress upon His Majesty's Government their conviction that, however excellent any scheme of reforms may be on paper, it will lead to no good results unless carried out under the direct control of European Governors proposed and adequately supported by the Great Powers. Such control is, in fact, absolutely essential. Your Memorialists, therefore, urge His Majesty's Government to use every endeavour not only to obtain from the Sublime Porte acceptance of the scheme of reforms in question, but also earnest and effective measures to ensure its execution under such European control as above indicated.

Your Committee are convinced that the above policy is in the best interests of Turkey herself, inasmuch as it is the only policy which can ensure the integrity and permanence of the Turkish Empire in Asia. Without effective reforms we have every reason to fear that disorders will certainly arise, and that this will lead to foreign intervention and dismemberment.

Your Memorialists believe that it is the policy of all the Great Powers to avoid such a result if possible, and it is certainly the policy of the leaders of the Armenian people, with whom your Memorialists are in touch. They do not desire to cease to be Turkish subjects, but at the same time they demand that their

people should be promptly and permanently relieved from the intolerable wrongs which they have so long suffered. Their patience is, in fact, rapidly running out. The scheme of reforms reported to be agreed upon they are prepared to accept as a minimum ; they ask, and we ask in their name, for its acceptance by the Porte and effective execution.

Your Memorialists further urge that His Majesty's Government and the Great Powers have, in the financial needs of Turkey, a lever to enforce the execution of reforms. It is evident that without reforms there is no moral ground on which Turkey can ask for financial or other concessions of any sort, nor is there any safety for foreign loans or foreign investments. Your Memorialists, therefore, urge that no consent or countenance be given to the floating of any loan, to any increase of customs duties or other taxation, or to any other change requiring the assent of the Powers, before the Sublime Porte shall have not only accepted the scheme of reforms above referred to, but put in operation such machinery as will ensure its effective execution. It is because they believe that financial pressure is perhaps the only, and certainly the least dangerous and least costly, form of pressure in which the Great Powers can unite, that your Memorialists venture thus strongly to urge upon His Majesty's Government that no portion of their powers in that respect be parted with except in exchange for a full acceptance and execution of reforms by the Turkish Government.

Your Memorialists believe it to be the truest kindness to Turkey to point out to her that in the Lebanon the adoption of reforms has been the best safeguard of Turkish interests ; that if acting in the same spirit, the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin relating to reforms in Macedonia had been carried out, the late war with all its losses to Turkey would have been avoided, and that similarly if even now the Treaty provisions as to reforms in Armenia are carried out, much suffering and possible future disasters may be avoided.

Finally, your Memorialists respectfully urge that in this matter the Treaty obligations, ideals and interests of Great Britain require that H.M. Government shall not only actively support reforms, but shall take the leading part in securing them.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee :

ANEURIN WILLIAMS, *Chairman.*

ARTHUR G. SYMONDS, *Secretary.*

International Conference on Armenia.

The Conference was organised by the Committee of the *Asie Française*, and met in Paris on Nov. 30th, under the presidency of General de Lacroix, president of the section, who was assisted by M. Emile Senard, the President of the Committee.

The countries represented, and the delegates present were:—

GERMANY	Dr. LEPSIUS. Dr. ROHRBACH.
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ..	Dr. ANTON HERMANN. Chevalier JOHANN PRUNKUL.
GREAT BRITAIN ..	Mr. ANEURIN WILLIAMS. Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR, M.P. Mr. A. F. WHYTE, M.P. Rev. HAROLD BUXTON.
ITALY	DUC D'ANDRIA CARAFA, Senator.
RUSSIA	M. MILIOUKOF, Deputy of Duma. M. JEAN PAVLOVSKY.
SWITZERLAND.. ..	M. LEOPOLD FAVRE. M. RENE CLAPAREDE.

General de Lacroix announced the regrets of several members of their inability to attend, and read a telegram from M. Goutchkof, of Moscow, to the same effect, pointing out the absolute necessity of putting an end to the deplorable condition in Armenia, and giving the assurance of his full concurrence and sympathy with the steps the Conference would take.

The General then addressed the delegates, pointing out that Armenian reforms should be a *sine qua non* of any financial aid that might be given to Turkey.

He then presented a full statement which had been submitted by Boghos Nubar Pasha on the situation.

The Conference was subsequently addressed by the Duc d'Andria Carafa, M. Milioukof, and Dr. Lepsius.

M. MILIOUKOF, in a notable address, said that in the matter of Armenian reforms nothing could be wiser than to be guided by the inspiration of Gladstone. That "grand old man" had said in one of his speeches, that when one asks anything of Turkey, it must be subject to three rules—in the first place, one should not ask for too much from such people, but only what was absolutely necessary; secondly, to insist on guarantees, without which no Turkish promise has a chance of being fulfilled; and lastly, not to be afraid of using pressure. In the speaker's opinion, the three rules exactly suited the present situation, and the scheme which had been elaborated at the Ambassadorial Conference at Constantinople was sufficient to solve, so far as we could hope, the Armenian problem. "A small bird in the hand is worth more than a large bird in the sky." It is out of the question to expect that the Turks will reform themselves. Even when they see the results of their mistakes, when they declare in principle that they will not

repeat them, their traditional instinct, their historical fatalism leads them into a relapse. M. Milioukof brought his speech to a close by repeating, in illustration, a conversation he had with a Turkish statesman as to the lamentable effects of leaving the solution of the Macedonian question in their hands. That gentleman could find scarcely any other reply to give than to promise a similar attempt, based solely on Turkish efforts and initiative, in the vilayets of Asia Minor.

The Rev. HAROLD BUXTON referred to the existing state of anarchy from his recent travels in those regions, and to the activity of the Kurds, which were leading to a rapid process of emigration of Armenians to Russia and America. He insisted on the necessity of reforms under direct European control, and said in conclusion: "Even such reforms might arrive too late. What do the people themselves think? Believe me, gentlemen, there, in Armenia, they have lost all hope in the assistance of Europe. They ask for help, they ask for security, if only to be allowed to live. They cannot go on waiting—and in place of something better, they ask for a Russian occupation. If the Russian troops cross the frontier, they would be hailed as friends and as liberators. It is absolutely necessary we should do what we can without delay."

Mr. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, Chairman of the British Armenia Committee, wound up a well-reasoned speech by declaring the absolute futility of so-called reforms without European control, and the danger which such a course would entail if, unhappily, the Powers were to shirk in the very least their responsibility. He proposed to add a declaration to their resolutions, whereby the delegates of the various countries would undertake to persuade their respective Governments to avoid such a danger.

Further speeches having been delivered by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M. Favre, M. Spronck, and Dr. Hermann, the necessary resolution of the Conference was adopted. After recounting the preliminary reasons, causes and effects of Armenian reforms, the resolution ended by

"Expressing the view that the Powers should refuse their consent to the raising of the Turkish Customs dues, or to the application of new taxes on foreigners in Turkey, nor should they be party to the issue of any Ottoman loan, that is to say, that they should refuse to satisfy in any manner the financial demands of Turkey until the Sublime Porte had formally accepted the scheme of Armenian reforms presented to it by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, wherein is stipulated the control of the Great Powers and the granting of executive powers to European officers who might be engaged to re-organise the administration of the vilayets of Armenia.

"The delegates expressed their intention of inviting the Governments of their respective countries not to make themselves responsible, by giving their consent or by acting in any other way, to so-called reforms which, without the essential element of European control, cannot but lead to disaster."

H. F. B. Lynch. An Appreciation.

A prominent figure and a well-known authority on Middle Eastern Questions has passed away, and the loss is felt keenly by Armenians, who are thus deprived of a staunch and devoted friend.

Henry Finnis Blosse Lynch, F.R.G.S. and formerly M.P. for the Ripon Division of the West Riding in Yorkshire, was born on April 18th, 1862. He was thus in his fifty-second year, and in the full vigour of life, falling a victim to pneumonia with a suddenness which came as a surprise to his host of friends.

Lynch was the son of Mr. Thomas Kerr Lynch, the head of an old land-owning family in county Mayo, and his grandfather, Major H. B. Lynch, gave a good account of himself in the Peninsular War. Born in London, he received his early education at Eton, proceeding thence to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he obtained a first class in the Classical Tripos, and finally completed his education at Heidelberg. He was called to the Bar of the Middle Temple in 1887.

Being connected with the great firm of Lynch Brothers, of which he was senior partner when he died, he received a somewhat short but necessary training in business life after the completion of his education, a training which undoubtedly aided him much in his subsequent activities connected with Mesopotamia and Persia, where his firm has traded for three generations and established a unique position. Lynch not only enhanced the firm's prestige, but also added much to geographical knowledge, by the practical share which he took in developing this portion of the Middle East which his firm had appropriated so long as their particular sphere of activity.

Lynch was specially fitted for the task he had undertaken both by his education and his strain of Armenian blood, which in no small measure contributed to his linguistic attainments. As a young man of twenty-six, he journeyed from Alexandretta through Aleppo and Diarbekir on horseback, and then floated down the Tigris on a raft as far as Bagdad. He subsequently inaugurated a new river service under the British flag on the Karun river in Persia—a part of his firm's great scheme, by means of the Lynch steamers, of navigating the important rivers that flow into the Persian Gulf.

Lynch then proceeded from the Karun across the Bakhtiari mountains to Ispahan, making surveys for the trade route into Persia, long known as the "Lynch road," some 270 miles in length, which his firm provided with steel suspension bridges, under treaty with the Bakhtiari chiefs, and thus succeeded in opening up to trade a tract of country which was infested with robber bands. This route was opened to traffic in 1900.

His great ability, combined with travel and long study, gave him a unique and unrivalled knowledge of the affairs of the Middle East; and much of his success was due to a personal suavity of manner, which enabled him to work directly and unaided with the peoples—rough and fanatical peoples—among whom his firm traded. His quick



In Memoriam.

HENRY FINNIS BLOSSE LYNCH,

Born, April 18th, 1862 — Died, November 24th, 1913.

A devoted friend of Armenia, and author of
"Armenia: Travels and Studies," in 2 Vols.

and versatile instinct was not long in persuading him that the vacillating and half-hearted policy of our Foreign Office was ill-adapted to the Eastern intellect. This made him an unflinching critic and opponent of British diplomacy as applied to Persia; and Persia owes what independence she still possesses to his untiring advocacy. He was chairman of the Persia Committee in the House of Commons.

Though, on account of his business connection, Persia and Mesopotamia were of paramount importance to his activities, his name will ever be associated with Armenia, with which his sympathies were bound up, for his classical book on that country. After extended travels in those regions, he published in 1901, "*Armenia: Travels and Studies*," in two volumes, a Russian translation of which appeared in Tiflis a few years later; and only a few months ago an Armenian translation was brought out at Constantinople. In 1903 he again visited the Caucasus and Armenia, and climbed Mt. Ararat. In 1908 he made a further journey to that country, surveyed the great crater of Nimrud, and, with the help of Mr. Oswald, mapped out the country.

With regard to his great book on Armenia, an eminent critic wrote soon after its publication: "For a long time to come, it will remain the standard work on Armenia the performance as a whole it will be difficult to equal and, for the present, impossible to surpass. The author is no less skilful with the pen than with pencil and camera in drawing vivid and fascinating pictures. The reader is everywhere captivated by the keen and vigorous observation, the width of outlook, the freshness of view and the general, straightforward narrative with its frequent sallies of humour."

More than this one could not say for this great work, and the writer of the present appreciation can himself endorse in a humble way the captivating charm of Lynch recounting, barely a month before his sudden death, his recollections of some of the transcendent beauties and fascinations of these journeys of his into this Switzerland of the East, when his genial humour and picturesque language made an impression which will not be soon obliterated.

Lynch's last public letter on Reforms in Armenia appeared in "*The Nation*" of Nov. 8th, just sixteen days before his death, and it carries conviction of his deep insight into the question.

The Armenian United Association of London, on behalf of the Armenian colony here, sent as their last tribute a wreath, and was represented at the funeral.

"From London to Armenia,"

By ARAM RAFFI.

It was on a fine morning of September—the 3rd—that my companions * and I left London *via* Ostend by the North Express for St. Petersburg. If you want to be comfortable, travel by the North Express. It is first class only, and costs three times as much as other express routes to St. Petersburg, but it has princely carriages and a splendid dining-car. The North Express knows its business well. If you want to go to St. Petersburg—well, it takes you there in a breath. You hardly notice that you are dashing through foreign territories; you do not notice where Holland ends and Germany begins; you pass through Berlin in the small hours of the morning.

The North Express should really be called the English Express, for as a rule the passengers are English. Cut off from the outside world, your attention is naturally concentrated on your immediate surroundings. We had few fellow-passengers; a tall English officer, with a lady—evidently on their honeymoon—were prominent amongst them.

When two Englishmen who are strangers to one another are travelling in the same train abroad, the correct thing is to say "Good morning" only, and that not till the second day. So our conversation with the other English people never went beyond that word. I don't think that the honeymoon couple had much to say to one another, or indeed anything of a serious nature; I don't suppose one does under those circumstances; and one would have thought that, by way of varying the monotony, they might just as well have allowed themselves to have a chat with us. We would have told them a great deal about Armenia and other instructive subjects. However, the rules of the honeymoon, and the English custom of not talking to strangers, prevented us from propagating our views on behalf of Armenia.

The lunch and dinner hours are a great relief, and they provide an opportunity of discovering what fellow-passengers one has. We soon found out that there was a Japanese couple in our train. But the fair companion of the Japanese gentleman never appeared in the dining car. When the courses were over and the ice cream was brought, he used to secure a double portion of ice cream and take it to his wife.

Though each passenger talked only to his own friends, everybody was observing everybody else; and thus we found out indirectly that the young English couple were on their way to St. Petersburg to spend the winter there, and that neither of them knew a single word of Russian. Also we soon learnt that the Japanese couple were completing a tour round the world. They all in their turn discovered about us, and that I knew the language of the countries we were about to visit.

There is a sort of feverish state of mind which seizes the traveller on approaching the Russian frontier. To him it is the most unwelcoming country. That fear had got hold of our neighbours while our train

was making for the land of the White Czar. Before their mind's eye the word passport was now written in large letters, and with it was the picture of an array of Customs officers, gens d'armes and secret police. And the worst difficulty of all—a strange language—the Russian. I myself was at home in Russia, and on arriving I found myself besieged by our fellow travellers. The first to speak was the military-looking English officer; he asked me whether I would help him in passing through some articles of ladies' apparel, which were for personal use. The Eastern gentleman also begged me on his wife's behalf to save her jewels from the Customs officers. I did my best for all of them. The officers were not so bad after all. It is not their fault that when they say, "Will you kindly be good enough to tell me whether you have got anything to declare," it sounds like, "Come, come, where have you hidden your pistols?" Ignorance of the language plays one such tricks! However mildly people speak to you you may not understand their good intentions. It may all sound savage to a listener, who has not the key of direct communication between two human beings of different race. If it is so in Russia, what must it be in Armenia?

Travelling through St. Petersburg made the journey to Tiflis twice as long, as it meant going out of our way northwards. I had no intention of sight-seeing, as I knew St. Petersburg well. When we reached that city we made good use of the opportunities afforded. We visited important leading Russian politicians, Members of the Imperial Duma, and journalists, with a view to studying Russian opinion on the Armenian Question. We were interviewed by the representatives of the leading Russian newspapers, both in St. Petersburg and Moscow. We learned their ideas on the Question and enlightened them on many points on which they were not clear. Most noteworthy are the words of Prince Ukhtomski, the editor of the "Peterburgskia Vedomosti," who said to me: "You are asking whether there is any hope for the Armenians. Yes, there is some hope, but not from outside; through centuries the Armenians have survived without the assistance or protection of any nation whatever; they have existed owing to their industry, culture, love of knowledge; they have concentrated their strength in themselves, knowing that there is no hope from without. The instinct of self-preservation has done its work, and the same instinct will find an outlet from the present intolerable situation; for to think that the Armenians would perish now is to misunderstand history. Now the Age of the Crusaders is buried in oblivion. Even the age of fighting for one's co-religionists, which was within the memory of this generation, has gone and has been superseded by self-interest. Armenia's instinct of self-preservation will grow in self-reliance, and will win its way to victory."

Prince Paul Dolgorukoff, of the "Moskovskia Vedomosti," re-assured us of the sympathy of the enlightened section of Russian Society towards Armenia. There is no help, he said, which they will refuse if they can lighten the sorrows of Armenia. The Editor of the "Russkoe Slovo" of Moscow talked of nothing less than autonomy for Armenia.

* Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and the Rev. Harold Buxton.

After passing six days in St. Petersburg and three days in Moscow we left for Tiflis *via* Vladicaucas, and journeyed thence through the beautiful Caucasian Mountains in a private motor-car, which took us to Tiflis. Tiflis is always a great surprise to a foreign traveller, who arrives believing it to be an ancient Turkish town. Instead of this he finds a modern European town against an Asiatic background, with handsome buildings and theatres, electric tram-cars and hot baths, and Persian bazaars. Tiflis, the capital of the Caucasus, is the intellectual centre of the Russian Armenia, with its national schools, its many scientific and literary societies, its newspapers and clubs, which compare favourably with those of great European capitals. Tiflis will convince all those who are interested in Armenia that the Armenians are a civilised and cultured nation.

After a week's sojourn in Tiflis we left for Echmiatzine, where we were very well received and had a long interview with the Catholicos of all the Armenians. My friends were much pleased with Echmiatzine and the neighbouring cathedrals, churches and old palaces that we visited. We stayed three days at Echmiatzine, then left for Erivan, where we stayed one day and paid some visits to the leading Armenians. We then hired a carriage and made two days' journey, visiting about twenty-five Armenian villages scattered over the Araxes Valley, in order to be able to compare them with the Armenian villages in Persia and in Turkey. We found them in a flourishing state. Every inch is cultivated, the land being covered with vines and rice and cotton plantations. For a long stretch, whose radius might have been a hundred miles, we were travelling through avenues of cypress and poplars bordering orchards full of fruit trees; these are irrigated by a regular system of water courses running parallel with the roadway, and regulated by sluices. Surely this is a plain indication of the welfare of the Armenian peasantry in the Caucasus. Every village had at least one national school, a church, a hospital, and a doctor paid by the rural community. There are also in each village wine-presses, distilleries (I may mention that the Caucasus is exempt from the State monopoly of distilling), and fruit preserving factories, which form the chief industry of that region. We put up for a night at one of these villages, called Ghamarlou. Here we saw a company of Armenian refugees fresh from Turkey, who had abandoned their homes and escaped, fearing that the massacres would be renewed. They had come all the way on foot. I was told that these unfortunate people were being housed in the neighbouring villages, and that work was being found for them on the land, as they were all able-bodied agriculturists.

I stayed one day at the ancient town called Hin Nachitchevan (Old Nakhichvan), which, as the tradition has it, was built by Noah, for I had an invitation to the wedding of the richest Armenian manufacturer in that city. The whole town was in holiday mood and attire. It was the event of the year, for the manufacturer was much respected, not because he was rich or charitable, but because he was a self-made man and owed his rise to his own industry and perseverance. He told

me his story himself. About forty years ago he left Maragha (in Persia), where he could not find any work, in search of new spheres of fortune. He joined a party of emigrants and, travelling on foot, came all the way from Persia to old Nakhechivan. By years of hard labour he succeeded in accumulating well-earned wealth and in rising to his present position.

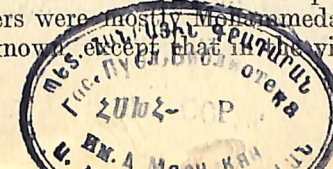
From Nakhechivan we went to Zulfa.

There are several routes to Van; the shortest and best is through Igdir, which takes only a few hours from the Russian railway station. The carriage takes you in four days from Igdir to Van, and the roads are tolerable. We chose the longer route, however, and went to Armenia through Persia; a course for which we had several reasons. The first was, that we wished to investigate the condition of the Armenians in Persia and to compare it with that of those on the other side of the frontier, in Armenia. Our second reason was a desire to study the Russian policy in Persia, and to investigate the workings of the Russian "influence" there. As everybody knows, the Russian troops are still in Persia, and we were interested to know whether their presence has the desired effect of securing the safety of the Christian and other inhabitants of the country.

From Tiflis one may travel to Julfa the frontier town between Russia and Persia, by rail, and proceed by the public motor-car service to Tabriz. This service is run by a Russian company. The journey occupies eight hours only. The road, laid down by Russia, and used at present by the motor service, is waiting for the addition of rails for steam traffic. The whole journey from Tiflis to Tabriz, rail and motor takes twenty-four hours. Twenty years ago it took eight days, and the roads were never safe. People travelled in companies, or took guards to protect them against the Kurds and other brigands. Many robberies and murders took place on the road from Julfa to Tabriz in those days. This is matter of history now; the road is as safe as in Russia.

At Tabriz we visited the Armenian Central School, *i.e.*, a Normal School, which is destined to provide teachers for Armenian schools in Persia. It is felt to be at the present time the hope of the country. The educational system is quite modern, and all sorts of educational and scientific appliances are available.

We journeyed from Tabriz to Salmast, and visited the villages Fayajouk, Havtovvan, the Old City, and Diliman. All the villages are inhabited by Armenians; but Diliman, which is a centre for commerce, is a Persian stronghold. Some years back, the only Armenians there were the merchants who had offices in the town for transacting their business, principally between Russia and Persia. There were hardly any Armenian shops there; there was no security for them in a town full of Persians. Now, however, their number has been greatly increased. We saw several wine-shops there, kept by Christians. The customers were mostly Mohammedans. This is a state of affairs hitherto unknown, except that in the villages Christians would some-



times sell wine by stealth. My point is, not that it is a good thing to sell wine, but that the presence of the Russian troops has in this respect at least made the people feel more secure. I need give no further proof of it—still, I have heard many peasant, both Mohammedans and Christians, say that if the Russian troops leave the country, many of the people, of both religions, will leave it too. I am not dealing with the political aspect of the matter, but it is a fact that the region in question is more secure than it was. It is a part of Persia which has always been in trouble, because Kurdish tribes were constantly crossing the frontier and committing outrages on the people, Mohammedans as well as Christians, and the Persian Government was not strong enough to keep them in check. When I speak of the Persian Government it is only fair to say that it has always done justice to the Armenians. The authorities never instigated massacres, and have always endeavoured to treat them well.

From Salmast to Turkish territory there are two routes—the safest way is by caravan, and the most dangerous is by *chari* which is a kind of brigand's cave. The border country between Persia and Armenia is no man's land. Simko, the great Kurdish chief, is absolute there. It is a strange, but perhaps a good policy, in the Russian Government that he has been made a sort of Governor-General by the way of checking his excesses, and is responsible for keeping the frontier clear of hostile Kurdish tribes and Turkish troops.

We chose the more dangerous of the two routes—the brigand's cave:

(To be continued.)

No Control, No Money.

(The leading Article of "The Daily News," Dec. 9th.)

If the centre of the Near Eastern problem has shifted from the Balkans to Armenia it is not, we fear, because an enduring peace has been established there. On the contrary, the calm is only the calm of exhaustion. After the enormous wastage of the past year the Balkan States must face a long period of recuperation and readjustment. But the seeds of future trouble are unhappily only too abundant, and Macedonia, whose condition was the origin of the tragedy, can hardly be said to be less a source of menace than it was under Turkish rule. The Servian policy of suppressing the nationality of the people can, if persisted in, only prepare the way for another disaster. It is because the failure of Europe to deal with the case of Macedonia has been followed by such a deplorable train of events that no effort should be spared now to prevent a repetition of the story in regard to Armenia. Had Europe intervened firmly in Macedonia any time during the last ten years, had it followed up the Muersteg policy by converting it into

an effective European control, there would have been no war. Macedonia would have been delivered and Turkey would have remained intact without menace to peace. Europe did not do its clear duty and we know the result. If it shows the same weakness in handling the case of Armenia the fruits will be the same.

There is, unhappily, little evidence that Turkey has learned anything from the past. That the situation of the Armenians is desperate there is abundant evidence to prove. Murder and robbery are rampant, and Mr. Noel Buxton and Mr. Harold Buxton found in their recent tour that even the Turkish traveller did not escape Kurdish outrage, so incapable is the Government of exercising any protection over life and property. The only hope of the wretched people is in flight to Russia and America. Yet the Turkish Government, though unable to rule and having the lesson of Macedonia before their eyes, are resisting all efforts to establish a really effective control. Their inspired Press is denouncing any intervention and is openly publishing threats against the Armenians, while there are not wanting even in Constantinople itself those sinister signs which foreshadowed the appalling Adana massacre. This attitude is not to be marvelled at. The ease with which Turkey was able to tear up the London Convention and flout Europe has restored its ancient contempt for the Powers, who are much more concerned about the treaties for the commercial partition of Turkey in Asia than for an agreed policy of control in the interests of the people. The negotiations which have been proceeding during the summer and autumn threaten to end in nothing more than a repetition of something like the Muersteg failure in Macedonia—the employment of Europeans to give the Turks advice and help, without any authority to see that reforms are executed. And without this power no scheme is worth the paper it is written on. European control is the one remedy not merely for the Armenians but for Turkish rule itself. Without that control the story of Macedonia will inevitably be repeated.

We wish that the Turkish Government would recognise that their own interests are at stake in this matter; but there are no signs that they do so and they are hoping to confront Europe with an accomplished fact which will leave their régime unfettered. Europe has one weapon with which to bring Turkey to reason. The Government have immediate financial necessities. They must have a loan or an increase of customs duties or both. These necessities should be the instrument by which Turkey is made to realise that control must be granted. Europe will be failing in its duty not only to the Armenians but to Turkey itself if this advantage is not used to the fullest extent. No control, no money must be the policy of Europe. To give financial help without securing the conditions of good government in Armenia would be a shameful betrayal and its inevitable result would be the repetition in Asia of the disaster that has befallen Turkey in Europe.

Vanishing Armenia.

By M. S. OLGININ.

(Concluded from page 111.)

IV.

Crimes perpetrated upon the defenceless Armenians are growing in number; while the lawless and unbridled brigands go scot-free and unpunished. If, on the other hand, someone be found murdered in any of the Kurdish villages, the inhabitants of the nearest neighbouring village are invariably accused, and all the inhabitants of that village are arrested *en masse* in consequence.

What measures do the Armenians take to ameliorate their bitter lot?

None!

It is difficult to find an explanation for such submissiveness on their part. One might well imagine, however, that Armenians in Turkey, living for centuries as it were on a volcano, and under constant threat of plunder and massacre, dread and avoid any public menace directed against them either collectively or individually. Indeed, on the merest suspicion of such a menace, the whole surrounding country sinks into apathy and utter silence from simple fear. The attention of the people is, in fact, wholly absorbed in endeavouring to maintain their existence.

Owing to the lack of native teachers and books, etc., the people, who ardently desire education, resort to the excellently provided missionary schools. The missionaries naturally wish to propagate their own particular beliefs, and as naturally render greater help to those who are ready to adopt these than to those others who remain true to their own faith. Especially fertile ground in this direction is afforded in those remote provinces where Armenians speak Arabic or Kurdish. The Consular Reports owe, of course, much in their compilation to these missionaries.

If the policy and intentions of the Great Powers be interpreted to mean that Turkey is to retain her integrity and that her financial condition should be improved; also that the hand of Russia should be stayed from touching Turkey or Turkey's interests, then it is easy to understand the value of the words uttered in furtherance of Reforms in Armenia. It undoubtedly means that if these Reforms in Turkish Armenia are to be left in the hands of the Great Powers, the present conditions will continue. How often have the Great Powers not given solemn promises to lighten the lot of the Armenians? How often have they broken these promises?

Since 1810 they have been making declarations and recording promises, and yet the Armenians are no better off. Russia alone is in a position to do something, and as regards Armenia, Russia has

pursued a weak and vacillating policy. Her commercial enterprises in Armenia have met with discouragement and failure, although her agents have had a cordial reception from the inhabitants. For example, Russia began to export sugar to Erzeroum for the Turkish troops. No sooner was this done than a committee of the Military Medical Council was held, and Russian sugar was condemned as harmful, while German and Austrian sugars were recommended.

The Young Turks pursue the policy of raising technical difficulties in the way of Russia, so as to render almost impossible all communication between Russia and Armenia.

The existing alarming situation can be remedied by paying off the debts that the Armenian peasantry owe to the Agrarian Bank, and thus relieving them of their exorbitant creditors, and re-instating the peasantry in possession of their lands.

Contrary to the objections raised by Turkey, which find support in England, Germany and Austria, Russia must have a free hand in establishing Reforms in Armenia. There can be no doubt that the object of Russia's endeavours should be a *Home Rule* policy for Armenia. This is the only solution that can be applied with happy results to the knotty question of Armenia.

Up and Down in Old Armenia.

By Prof. EDGAR J. BANKS.

The Armenian who brings to us the rich embroideries and rugs from the Orient is not generally considered one of the people of the Bible, but there is a strong probability that he is a descendant of the old, powerful nation of the Hittites. If so, he is of a double interest to the Bible student. His ancient kingdom, once a power in the world, is now divided between Russia, Persia and Turkey. He is without a country, but of his lost country the snow-capped peak of Ararat is not far from the centre.

In Russian Armenia, to the north of Ararat, almost in the shadow of the great mountain, lies the little village of Etchmiadzin. There, in the religious centre of the Armenian world, one may see the Armenian at his best. He claims to have been among the first to embrace Christianity, and he dates many of his churches from almost the beginning of the Christian era. From the Russian town of Erivan, we had driven through the rich Araxes Valley to this old monastery. It was long after dark when we arrived, yet the gates were opened to us, and we were taken to a building reserved for strangers, where food and

lodging are provided free for all who come. The Catholicos, or head of the Armenian Church, commissioned a priest to attend us. There are a score of buildings of which the Armenians are proud. The priests proudly show the vestments of past centuries, richly decorated with rubies and emeralds and pearls. There are rare gifts from all parts of the world, including what they claim to be wood from the Cross, and a bit of the ark of Noah. The new stone library contains several thousand ancient Armenian manuscripts, the contents of which are little known. In the museum are cuneiform inscriptions from twenty-five centuries ago.

Going south from Etchmiadzin, we travel through the heart of old Armenia. We pass the base of Mount Ararat, always within sight of the snow-capped summit. Beyond the Turkish border the little Armenian villages are more squalid. Along with the Armenians, in the same villages, or in other more squalid, live the Kurds. Strange are the tales of cruelty which the Armenians relate of this old enemy of theirs. Whenever there is an Armenian massacre, the Kurds are employed to do the slaying. If an Armenian be found straying alone, his life is in danger. A German botanist was recently robbed by the Kurds and left half dead. Their only defence was that they thought he was an Armenian. In a wagon drawn at twilight into one town, I saw the bodies of two Armenians. The Kurds had just killed them, and I was assured that it was too common an occurrence to attract attention.

Among the Armenian peasants the old patriarchal system prevails. The entire family of a score or two of people of several generations lives beneath a single roof. Together, both men and women till the fields in a primitive manner, and when the grain is ripe, they take a sheaf to the roadside that the passing stranger may give a present and thus bless their crop.

A week's journey south of Etchmiadzin is the old capital city of Van. High in the mountains, five thousand feet above the sea, it stands by a beautiful lake. Though it has more than fifty thousand people, it consists chiefly of one wide street reaching from the lake for miles up the gentle slope. About are walls of massive stone as old as Nineveh, and decorated with cuneiform inscriptions. High on one of its sides, where no man may climb, is the famous bilingual inscription of Xerxes, King of Persia. Cut into the solid rock are several palaces which excite the wonder of the traveller. Semiramis, whom tradition calls the wife of Ninus, the founder of Nineveh, or Shamiram, as the Armenians call her, may have built them. On the summit of the rock we found an ancient, headless stone statue, now broken in two, that may have come from her time.

On the shores of Lake Van is the snow-capped Mount Sipan, and near it is Nimrud Dagh, the second largest crater in the world. For miles about, the country is covered with lava beds. There are fully twenty streams flowing into the lake, but not one flows out. The water is exceedingly bitter, and so heavy that to sink in it is difficult.

A century and a half ago, when the lake possessed an outlet through a natural tunnel, it was much smaller than now, but during a quarrel the Kurds filled up the tunnel with bags of wool. Since then the lake has risen one hundred and fifty feet. The villages along its shores have been covered. Old churches, the oldest in Armenia, stand beneath the waters. The high places formed islands, and the waters are rising above them. Millions of acres of farm lands have been lost, and the very best of Armenia is now submerged. Still the waters are rising, and they must rise six hundred feet more before they can find a natural outlet.

Before then the old city of Van and even its high castle rock with its inscriptions and palaces, will ultimately be buried. Dr. Ussher is now trying to persuade the Turkish Government to tunnel through the rocks to form a new outlet below the present level. If he succeeds, the old Armenian city will be saved. It is a beautiful ride of ten hours across the lake to Tadwan, a little Armenian village where life in all its simplicity may be seen as it was two thousand years ago. Farther south, a day's journey from Lake Van, is Bitlis. It is a beautiful place on the Bitlis Su, one of the headwaters of the Tigris. Way back in the time of Xenophon, when the ten thousand Greeks marched on their way to the sea, they passed Bitlis, and even then the Kurds hurled stones down upon them from the castle rock.

At the present time the Turkish Government is building a good permanent road through the Armenian Mountains, and it is a picturesque country through which it passes. There are high mountains, streams bounding over the rocks, quaint villages perched in precipitous places and inaccessible during the winter time. At Sert, in the mountains further south, I was told that a wagon had never been seen; even the horseman must climb over steep rocks, leaving his horse to follow him.

A new era seems to be opening up to the Armenians. Their long-lost country is being exploited for its rich mineral ores. New roads make the larger towns accessible during all the year. European influence is fast entering, and the Armenians who have gone to Europe or America return with wealth and new ideas.

Long persecutions have sharpened their wits, and fitted them to take a foremost rank in every field of endeavour.

Report of the Meeting

OF THE

Armenian United Association of London.

*Held at the Elysée Galleries, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.,
December 14th, 1913.*

Mr. Aram Raffi delivered a lecture on his Recent Travels in Armenia. The lecture was illustrated by lime-light views, from excellent photographs taken by Mr. Raffi himself during his journey.

The lecture, which will be printed in full, starting from this issue, will be found on page 180 under the title of "From London to Armenia."

Besides the President's address, Mr. Arthur G. Symonds, Dr. T. M. Maguire, and Mr. Fred. G. Threadgold also spoke.

Prof. G. Thounaïan and Mr. D. Arslanian proposed votes of thanks to the lecturer and the president.

The musical part was on a high level. Miss Margery Bentwich, the well-known violinist, a pupil of Kreisler and Auer, played three violin solos with great brilliancy. Miss Grace O'Malley sang "Tzitzernak," a favourite Armenian song, in a very sweet voice. Mr. Zareh Tiratzian sang some Armenian songs very artistically, and Dr. E. Joubert gave a very fine rendering of the Prologue to Pagliacci.

The hall was crowded to overflowing, among the audience being a considerable number of English visitors.

The President, Lieut.-Col. G. M. GREGORY, in opening the meeting, said:—

We are here this afternoon to listen to a lecture by our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Raffi, on *His Recent Travels in Armenia*. Now, travelling in Armenia, that is, in Turkish Armenia, is not a pleasurable undertaking—it is not like going to the Riviera or to Switzerland, journeying thither in a *train de luxe* and putting up at the Schweizerhof Hotel. The journey to the frontier may have been all very nice—Russia and Russian Armenia are civilised regions, and Mr. Raffi has many friends in Tiflis and elsewhere, but when we come to contemplate a journey into the vilayet of Van, I do not think many of us here would offer to join a travelling party with a light heart. Mr. Raffi will, I have no doubt, tell you of the discomforts he has gone through—and there were, I am sure, not only discomforts—there is positive danger at times from marauding bands who do not discriminate between friend and foe. It is a pleasure, therefore, to feel that the Kurds did not evince too great a liking for our Hon. Secretary, to the extent of keeping him either for his linguistic or other parts, but have permitted him to return to us in a sound condition.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, what was the object of Mr. Raffi's journey? Most of you may not know why he went—and as he went with the blessings of our Association, it is only right that you should be aware of the steps that led to his journey. Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., and his brother, the Rev. Mr. Harold Buxton, had decided to see something of Armenia, Russian, Persian and Turkish, on the spot, and to shape their views from first-hand knowledge as to the political aspects of the Armenian Question. They made inquiries for letters of introduction to influential people, and when this came to our knowledge, our Hon. Secretary, with a singleness of purpose, volunteered his services to accompany the two brothers, and so to be their personal introducer to the people of influence in those regions. He himself was contemplating a journey to Russian Armenia and Turkey, and it would be a happy coincidence if the travellers combined into one party. The proposal struck us as eminently satisfactory, not only because of Mr. Raffi's great linguistic attainments, but also because he bore a name which was honoured in regions inhabited by Armenians, and would act as a certain passport for the important introductions needed. We felt that, as the brothers Buxton were undertaking this journey in the true interests of Armenia, it was our duty to place at their disposal the best assistance we could. Mr. Raffi's position in their party was, however, quite on an independent footing. The question of funds for Mr. Raffi's extended journey was soon settled—seven members of our Association coming forward and guaranteeing the entire amount needed. These seven gentlemen are of a retiring disposition, and would not like me to mention their names. Their one desire was, and is, to see the wrongs of their country thoroughly and impartially investigated, and they have a certain knowledge that Mr. Raffi's self-imposed task was well and truly done, as I can personally testify from what I have heard from Mr. Noel Buxton and his brother. You yourselves have also a share in this matter, as the General Committee of our Association acted on your behalf, and everything that was done by them was done in the name of our Association—and in this matter I feel sure you will support the action of the General Committee.

We are all anxious to hear Mr. Raffi's experiences, so I will not detain you long—they have been kept a dead secret, and I am as eager to hear what he has to say as you are. With regard to the views of Mr. Noel Buxton and Mr. Harold Buxton, these I have no doubt will appear in print as time goes on, for us all to read. Two excellent articles have already appeared, one by Mr. Noel Buxton in the "Nineteenth Century," and one by Mr. Harold Buxton in the "Contemporary Review" of the present month. These I commend to your notice.

An interesting feature of Mr. Raffi's lecture will be the limelight views, which are from photographs taken by Mr. Raffi himself during his journey. I was told by one of the party that they were excellent photographs, so that, too, is a treat in store for us.

One more word before I make way for Mr. Raffi. Before he started on his journey, the General Committee of our Association felt that we would be acting in the true spirit of national help if we authorised him to make presentations of books to our national schools in Armenia, wherever he considered they were needed. For this purpose we placed at his disposal £20 from that branch of our Association which is concerned with the education and relief of the needy. Mr. Raffi reports that he acted in the spirit of our instructions by distributing 280 volumes, nearly all illustrated, to Armenian schools in the districts of Der, Van and Aghthamar, made up as follows:—

50 books on Botany,
50 „ „ Geography,
50 „ „ Armenian History,
50 „ „ Anatomy,
50 „ „ General History,
and 30 other school books.

All these books were purchased on the recommendation of the professors of the Armenian "Nercessian" Seminary at Tiflis. The authorities at Van have written to me and acknowledged the gift of the Association.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I have said all I need say, and I will call upon Mr. Raffi to tell us his experiences.

(For the Lecture see page 180.)

Mr. FRED. G. THREADGOLD, as an Englishman who had worked for many years on behalf of Armenia, and especially student refugees, thanked the lecturer for the most interesting lecture. Then he went on to state that in his opinion the time for arguments had gone—that militant action must be taken, and that there were three courses open to this oppressed nation, viz.: (a) To arm and defend themselves—entirely. (b) To seek an effective English suzerainty. (c) Failing that, an effective Russian suzerainty. In preference to continued massacre he suggested that the position should be put clearly to our Foreign Office and Cabinet, viz., that the time had come for definite action, and that if England refused, the Armenians would invite and assist Russia to occupy and administer the country. Also to point out to England that she alone had moral and treaty rights and, apart from her duty to specified obligations and to humanity, it was to her immense political advantage to get a foothold in the Orient, such as Armenia offered, and to ally herself to the only Christian Oriental nation, which would thus assist our interests in India, and in course of time, he considered that a great and flourishing race like the Armenians working together with England would become invincible.

Mr. ARTHUR G. SYMONDS, secretary of the British Armenia Committee, said that the last speaker appeared not to be aware of what had been done by the Committee to urge action on the part of this country. At the same time it must be remembered that single action by any Power was not so likely to be effective as the combined pressure of all the Great Powers of Europe, and to obtain that was the aim not

only of British friends of Armenia, but of Nubar Pasha and others who could speak authoritatively for the Armenian people. He was not sanguine of any good being done by the Turks of their own initiative, but he felt it right to inform his Armenian friends that he had received a day or two ago a letter from a British officer, who stated specifically that he had received from the Porte a definite commission with full authority to organise the gendarmerie in Anatolia, and that he had already begun the work. That gentleman expressed confidence that the Turks really meant business this time. But they had all been so often disappointed that he (Mr. Symonds) was not prepared to believe it till it was an actual *fait accompli*. He hoped that pressure would continue to be brought on all the Powers to insist on effective European control, without which he could only say—God help Armenia! and God help England, too, if she failed to do her duty towards Armenia.

Dr. T. M. MAGUIRE, LL.D., said he thanked the lecturer for a most interesting and instructive lecture, full of strange facts which brought his memory back to generations of growing and decaying races, to all the origins of civilisation, and to the magnificent exploits of Assyrians, Persians and Greeks, and the more magnificent "monuments and ruins of old." He was a member of an old race, not yet dead any more than the highly educated Armenians, whose strong men and learned savants, and lovely ladies, filled this room. He would rather trust Belfast Orangemen than English party rulers, who had no principle but votes. As to the Powers, to trust them was Ichabod! Who were the Powers and what was their policy? Surely Japan, which, though more powerful as a fighter, and force counts more than ever, was not interested in Armenia. Surely the members of the Triple Alliance each and all would not spend either money or blood on Asia Minor. Prussia and Austria would prefer to push back the Muscovites, and Italy had other aims. As for the *entente*, France no longer counted for much, either military or naval, in the Levant, and its crusading days were over—indeed, the Cross had waned in the realms of St. Louis. Besides, France's military forces were thinking more at present of the Vosges than of Mt. Ararat. Strange that Christian feeling had no power over Western Christendom to-day—less in the twentieth century than in the twelfth! Surely Russia would not move one soldier of Caucasian or Siberian Cossacks on behalf of Armenian liberty. He had not the least belief in the honesty or liberty-loving views of the "Powers," either as to Port Arthur or Japan or Crete, much less Armenia.

As for England? Under this Government there was no chance of war for Armenia, or for Turkey or Albania, or British honour. Read last week's Liberal and liberty journals! Diminish armaments, reduce our Navy, make our Regulars and Auxiliary Forces impotent and an object of scorn to the real Powers. Avoid war at all costs was their cry! Righteousness did not exalt the paltry crew of vote catching economical charlatans, and he assured the Armenians that "in native

rms and native ranks the only hope of freedom dwells." The Liberals would never send an Irish Dragoon or English Guardsman, or even kilted Scot, to the source of the Euphrates, because Christians were hacked by Kurds. Not one Kurd chief such as the lecturer met would be afraid of ten Haldanes. Who fears that non-militant war-chief Seely? As for the Kurds, their present position was very like that of the Scotch Highland clans about 1700 A.D., and he hoped that they also would come to reason. If Armenians organised and armed, Kurds could be forced to have sense.

Announcements.

ARMENIAN UNITED ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

The following Meetings will be held during the next three months at the Elysée Galleries, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W. :—

Sunday, Jan. 18th. *Conversazione* in celebration of Armenian Christmas Day (Jan. 19th), with vocal and instrumental music.

„ Feb. 22nd.) The nature of these two gatherings will be
„ Mar. 29th.) notified later.

NOTICE.

The Annual General Meeting of the Armenian United Association of London will be held on Saturday, January 31st, 1914. Only Members of the Association will be entitled to attend. The place and time of meeting, together with the business to be transacted, will be communicated to members in due course.

Literary Section.

The call of this section to our readers has not passed unheeded. The following lines are from the pen of a young contributor, whose depth of feeling and power of expression we are proud of having enlisted in our cause.

THE SPIRIT OF ARMENIA.

I.

I dreamt I was an eagle. Tireless pinions
Bore me undrooping through high cloud-fleck'd space;
And underneath me cities, seas, dominions
Lay clothed in softened colours. I could trace
The winding course of valley-loving streams
Where sable shades alterne with silver gleams;
The shapeless patches of dark forest, clinging
To rolling mountain slopes, rill-furrowed, flinging
Huge wedgelike bastions, star-wise, all around.
Deep umber tarns slept, tranced by the still sound
Of far cascades; and here were cool fresh meads
By river banks, all willow edged. Stark reeds
In sedgy dankness fringed each lucent pond,
Whose glaze was painted by the hills beyond.
Over great cities passed I, hung with smoke
Which pallid them like a gloomy mourning cloak,
That scarce a glint of newly risen Sun
Might, like a sword-blade, pierce the shield of dun,
And thrust his freshness into foetid nooks,—
Unknown to Christians and the men of books,—
Where e'en the Vampire Croesus well might blench,
Stunned by the fever, famine, filth, and stench.
So did I journey over divers lands
And seas whose ripples kissed their glowing sands,
Till Constantine's thrice-circled city hove
Into my vision. Passing far above,
I overswept the Anatolian Hills.
Then was a land outspread beneath my flight,
Of craggy steeps, and valleys rich with rills,
And flowery fields luxuriantly dight.

II.

In the clear freshness of the mountain air
 A streak of smoke rose reeling with the wind,
 And circling like a turret's spiral stair,
 Till, gust-outspread and hazily defined,
 It melted in the blueness of the morn.
 Then I approached,—I would I had foreborne!
 For naked Horror met the far-flung gaze.
 A homestead lay, its ruins yet ablaze
 With hungry flames whose snaky tongues did crawl
 O'er rafter ash to lick the blacken'd wall,
 And, flickering in the Sunlight's mocking glance,
 Like fays belated leapt their ghoulish dance.
 The smould'ring roof-tree, charred and broken short,
 Alone uncrumbled, darkly lay athwart
 The whitening embers; but the stout door, batter'd
 And split, hung, hinged yet to the chipp'd and shatter'd
 Lintel of granite.

O'er that threshold stone
 What gallant bands of mountaineers had gone
 To harry the Assyrian, or repel
 The Byzantine from rocky citadel!

Thou on whose hills Semiramis' array
 In futile surges foam'd itself away!
 Shall Kurdish rovers trample on the shield
 That stout-outthrust in many a stricken field
 Bore back the Babylonian phalanx?

Dark
 In the pale glare, distorted, stiff and stark,
 Three mangled forms conspicuously lay,
 Huddled as they had fallen in the fray.
 By the poor ruin that yet fiercely blazed,
 A wretched group crouch'd, stupefied and dazed
 With Terror,—one, the father of the three;
 Of snowy head and palsied step was he;
 But the fierce brigand is no Kurd who spares
 The weakness of a woman, hoary hairs,
 Or infant innocence. Only swift flight
 Into the shielding darkness of the night
 Had saved the patriarch and those who lay
 Around him, while his three sons held in play
 The raider band. Mad that they did not find
 That dearest of all booty, Womankind,
 The ravening wolf-pack, fiercely discontent
 With herds and household goods, had sought to vent
 Its fury in the burning. Such the work
 Of Kurdish brigands and the tyrant Turk:
 Such, O ye Nations, the paternal sway

Of Muslim curs and their pet robber whelps!
 Your hand it is that feeds them every day;
 Ye see their victims' last sad plight: Who helps?

III.

One grand old man there was, I thought, of ours,
 To whom the lifeblood of Armenia's veins
 Was more than jealous balancing of powers,
 Or sordid lucre smirched with clamant stains;
 Whose fervent soul, aflame with blazing ire,
 Fill'd those bold tones with a prophetic fire;
 One who brook'd not base calculating stay,
 And flung all reck of Interest away:
 O, for such passion of denunciation,
 O for such bursts of torrent indignation,
 As from that Lion of dead England roll'd!
 But he is gone, and now her God is Gold:
 The martial strain whereon the Briton dotes,—
 The chink of coin, the crackling of his notes.

Another Lion of the British breed
 There was, to whom nor apathy, nor greed,
 Nor craven hate, nor rancour-nourished fear
 Outweigh'd the duty Honour held so dear,—
 To right the wrong our other act had caused. (*)
 He felt, he mourned for Thee; but here he paused,
 His goodwill crushed and smother'd by the weight
 Of Cowardice, that with Corruption sate
 Enthronéd high as England's Goddesses;
 And by the selfish greed-born Jealousies
 That set each Tyrant of a cringing nation,
 Like gaunt wolves, mad with blood-thirst and starvation,
 Snarling and snapping at the others' heels:
 Uncomprehending mercy; to appeals
 Wrung from a people's agonis'd despair,
 As sweetly, gently piteous as it were
 An angler for the worm he deftly spits
 Upon the barbéd hook-point, as he sits
 Burning the odorous leaf. He sighed, and said,
 "Fain would I raise Armenia's dust-laid head:
 But Circumstance, strong as the fowler's net,
 Has thwarted me with dalliance and let.
 What would ye have me do? I cannot send
 Our fleet across the Taurus."

Not a friend
 Was there with will and power to interpose
 The broad assuring buckler 'twixt Thy foes
 And Thee, the spent deer, ring'd on every hand
 By red jaw'd hounds, a fell and cruel band.
 They that might, recked not how Armenia bled,
 How fertile plains were strewn with rotting dead:
 They that would, could not; and their tears were all

* San Stefano—Cyprus—Berlin

That Europe gave a nation's funeral!
 But while one true Armenian heart shall beat,
 One patriot for her liberty contend,
 One name at least will grateful lips repeat,
 And honour Gladstone as Armenia's friend!

IV.

Behold a mountain, in magnificence
 And hoary height above his circling peers,
 Rising from glens where undergrowth is dense,
 And piny forests, marshlands, deep-gulf'd meres,
 To barren gauntness, slopes as steep and ragged
 As crumbled ramparts, pinnacles as jagged
 As lightning-riven oak-stumps. All the spurs
 Were thickly clothed with arrow-headed firs,
 Scatter'd with rock-points, breaking through the green
 That could not mount, but left them half unseen.
 Here in the slope all crude and boulder-strewn
 Were Gothic caverns, dismally outhewn
 From adamant, whose rugged shapelessness
 With quaint and huge embossments seemed to dress
 The cave-wall, and whose veins and juttings gave
 The roof its columns, curving architrave,
 And lofty portal. Here in bone-piled lair
 Skulked grimly lance-eyed lynx and death-claw'd bear.
 The gurgling rillels, tinkling on the pebbles,
 Blend; and the narrow deep-cleft channel trebles;
 Till brawling brooks in leap-frog jollity
 Go tumbling down to seek the distant Sea.

I floated to the topmost turret's height,
 And glutted here my vision's appetite;
 For crags and moorlands, lakes and wide champaigns
 Were spread before me. On the verdant plains
 Were smiling homesteads, pastures speck'd with kine,
 With olive-yards, and wealth of leafy vine,
 And hill sides dotted with recumbent rocks,
 Where fleece-clad shepherds watched their browsing flocks
 Of sheep or leaping goats.

But naught intruded
 Upon the sombre solitude where brooded
 The Spirit of Armenia, alone
 And comfortless upon her couch of stone.

In the keen ether, clear as molten glass,
 Long tranced, I hover'd round the rearing mass;
 Then on a pillar scarr'd and thunder-split,
 With wings unwearied, I at last alit

In wonder: for before me stood a Form
 Like the tired Spirit of the Winter Storm
 In Springtime: Scarcely mortal did it seem,
 Nor yet the shadow of a fleeting dream
 Uniform'd. It was a Maiden draped in white,
 With downcast eyes that shunned the frolic light;
 And o'er her samite stole and features pale
 Was loosely cast an all-enshrouding veil
 Of ebon. In her careworn brow I ween,
 Her hanging head and lowly-drooping mien,
 And most her anguish'd eyes: writ large in these,
 Horrors I read whereat my blood did freeze:
 For here were fires, and blood on glittering knives,
 Of babes and women,—children, mothers, wives;
 And torments worse than death; and famine-stricken
 Lands where the fly-like corpses hourly thicken,
 Till Plague, high riding on his spectral mount,
 Poisons the waters to their highest fount,
 And blotchy corpses, rotting in the street,
 Glut the foul vultures with fresh human meat.

Silent she stood, nor utter'd moan nor sigh,
 But ever marked the ground with steadfast eye;
 Then with slow measured paces did she go
 Intently up and down, and to and fro,
 As one that planned a city. But her care
 Was not to raise a mansion passing fair,
 High-pleasaunced on rich-blooming terraces;
 Her thought, deep-roaming in Hope's mysteries,
 Born of unreckoned Wrong and selfless Passion,
 Was this:—by Faith and tireless Love to fashion
 Out of the horror of Armenia's wreck
 A new colossal edifice, to deck
 Within with Freedom's emblems, and without
 To fortify against the Muslim rout.

And shall her aim like other good be foiled?
 The robe of all Humanity be soiled
 By more Adanas? Or our prayers be heard
 By heedless Heav'n, to tardy pity stirr'd?
 Thou Destiny, beneath whose iron tread
 Sooner or later every power lies broken!
 When shall thy heel crush down the Serpent's head?
 Awake! and let the word of doom be spoken!

G. M. GREEN.



The Armenian United Association of London.

FOUNDED 1898. RECONSTRUCTED 1913.

Officials of the Association.

G. M. GREGORY, Lieut.-Col., V.D. ..	<i>President.</i>
Madame RAFFI	} <i>Vice-Presidents.</i>
J. G. JOAKIM	
A. P. HACOBIAN	
J. A. CALANTARIENTS, M.D.	<i>Hon. Treasurer.</i>
J. A. CALANTARIENTS, M.D.	<i>Hon. Asst. Treasurer.</i>
ARAM RAFFI	<i>Hon. Secretary.</i>

This Association has been founded with the double object of (1) drawing together all Armenians in the British capital, bringing them into touch with the British public, and thus establishing a closer sympathy between the two nations; and (2) focussing in the centre of the civilised world the many questions, both social and national, which affect Armenia and the Armenians.

With the above objects in view, the Association is directing its energies to—

- (1) The establishment of a permanent habitation in London, which will embrace a hall for meetings, a reading-room and a library.
- (2) The organisation of social and literary gatherings.
- (3) The relief and education of Armenian orphans rendered destitute through chronic misrule in Armenia.
- (4) Watching the trend of political affairs affecting Armenia, and doing the utmost by pacific means towards the amelioration of the country and the people through (a) a Standing Committee, and by (b) the publication of literature.
- (5) The gradual raising of a fund for the establishment of an Armenian Church in London.

Membership is open to Armenians of both sexes.

Subscription :—Annual, 10/-; entrance fee, 5/-. Life Members, 5 guineas.

Sympathisers and friends of other nationalities are eligible for election as Hon. Members, but they have no voice in the management, and pay no subscriptions.

It will be evident that the above nominal subscription is just sufficient for the bare social functions of the Association. The more important functions are dependent for their success on the liberality of sympathisers, and donations are earnestly requested for the above national objects from those who are in a position to contribute. The response since the reorganisation of the Association has been very encouraging, but much more is needed to place the Association on a secure basis for prosecuting the work outlined above.

Communications affecting Membership, or any of the objects of the Association, should be addressed to

THE HON. SECRETARY,

32, Richmond Gardens,

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